

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9231

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PASS: TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BEXP, SA, US

SUBJ: US/SAUDI ECON COMMISSION: STANDARDS ADVISOR

REF : A. STATE 246950, B. JIDDA 6328; C. JIDDA 6247

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH QUTB REGARDING SUBJECT OF REFTEL. QUTB HAS GIVEN US A REASONABLY GOOD DESCRIPTION OF HIS DESIRES FOR A TEAM OF EXPERTS AND THE ROLE THEY WOULD PLAY IN SASO. HE, AND EMBASSY, DO NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN SELECTION PROCESS OF ADVISOR WHO WILL PREPARE OVERALL PROJECT WITH SASO. WE DO, HOWEVER, WISH NBS, DOC, AND WORKING GROUP PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON TO INDICATE EXPLICITLY THAT THEY HAVE CONSIDERED THE POINTS MADE BELOW AND BELIEVE THE ADVISOR SELECTED CAN MEET THE RATHER BROAD AND INDEED DEMANDING REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. COINCIDENT WITH ARRIVAL OF REFTEL, WE WERE DISCUSSING ROLE OF STANDARDS ADVISOR WITH SASO DIRECTOR GENERAL QUTB. WE HOPE DISCUSSIONS PROVIDED NECESSARY DETAIL PER PARA 4 REFTEL.

2. SASO STILL DESIRES AN ADVISOR WHO CAN SURVEY THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF ITS ACTIVITIES. THE ADVISOR SHOULD BE ABLE TO PREPARE A PROJECT (DESCRIBED AS A TEAM OF ADVISORS IN REFTEL) AIMED AT MEETING SASO NEEDS OVER A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. QUTB UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS ADVISOR WILL NOT PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY

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ATE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS, IN ANY SPECIFIC STANDARDS

AREA, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY NECESSARY FOR OPERATION OF THE TEAM OF ADVISORS. ONE PROBLEM QUTB IS CONCERNED WITH IS PROPER SEQUENCE OF ADVISORS. HIS SHOP WITH LIMITED MANPOWER COULD NOT ABSORB ALL NECESSARY EXPERTS OVER A SHORT PERIOD.

3. SASO HAD PREVIOUSLY PREPARED A LIST OF DESIRES TO BE PRESENTED TO A PRIVATE FIRM OR INSTITUTE WHICH MIGHT UNDER-TAKE TO PROVIDE THE TEAM OF ADVISORS QUTB SEEKS. BASED ON THAT DOCUMENT, MR. QUTB WOULD LIKE THE ULTIMATE TEAM PROJECT TO:

- A. ADVISE IMPROVEMENTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND OVERALL POLICY MATTERS, INCLUDING RELATIONSHIP OF DECREES AND RESOLUTIONS OF KINGDOM WHICH AFFECT STANDARDS;
- B. SUGGEST PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO IMPROVE HANDLING SASO WORK LOAD;
- C. SUGGEST METHODS OF IMPROVING APPLICATION OR ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS;
- D. ESTABLISH A LIBRARY AND INFORMATION APPARATUS, INCLUDING RELEVANT TECHNICAL LISTS AND INFORMATION;
- E. SET UP A DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM;
- F. SUGGEST METHODS FOR PUBLICIZING WORK OF SASO;
- G. SUGGEST METHODS OF PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;
- H. STUDY LOCAL CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES (SUCH AS IMPORT AND MANUFACTURING CONDITIONS) WITH INTENT OF ISURING SASO MEETS PURPOSE OF ITS MEMBERS;
- I. PROVIDE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR SASO COUNTERPARTS (BY ADVISOR TEAM MEMBERS);
- J. STUDY APPROVED AND/OR EXISTING STANDARDS AND RECOMMEND REVISION IF APPROPRIATE;
- K. ASSIST IN DRAFTING NEW STANDARDS (QUTB IS ACTUALLY QUITE WILLING TO GIVE ADVISORS FREE HAND IN DRAFTING STANDARDS, BUT RECOGNIZES NEED FOR TRAINING HIS OWN STAFF);
- L. ADVISE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON ISSUES REFERRED TO ADVISOR BY DIRECTOR GENERAL.

4. MR. QUTB HAS STRESSED A NUMBER OF TIMES IN OUR DISCUSSIONS THAT THE ADVISOR WE SEND MUSH BE FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND HOPEFULLY WITH OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTES. QUTB HAS ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT HIS AGENCY CUTS ACROSS SEVERAL U.S. AGENCIES. IF NBS ADVISOR CANNOT PROVIDE INSIGHT OR ASSIST IN DEVELOPING COMPLETE ADVISORY TEAM DETAILS IN FOOD AND DRUGS OR OTHER AREAS, HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHEN SUCH AN ADVISOR OR ADVISORS COULD FOLLOW THE FIRST EFFORT IN ORDER TO PUT TOGETHER A COMPLETE PROJECT AND TEAM. HAS FDA BEEN APPROACHED IN THIS REGARD? QUTB BELIEVES THIS WILL ULTIMATELY BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE FULL COVERAGE OF FOOD LAW AND REGUL-

ATION. DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS AND THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS, INC. ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL POINTS HAS ALSO BEEN THAT THE ADVISOR MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCESS OF CREATING STANDARDS, NOT JUST TESTING OR APPLICATION.

5. REGARDING ACTUAL PERSONNEL TO SERVE AS INITIAL ADVISORS, QUTB DOES NOT WISH TO IMPLY REJECTION OF MR. HAECKER, AND EMBASSY ALSO HAS NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN SELECTION PROCESS. IF NBS BELIEVES HAECKER MEETS REQUIREMENTS, QUTB (AND EMBASSY) WILL ACCEPT THAT DECISION.

6. WE AGREE THAT DELAY IN DEPARTURE IS JUSTIFIED. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY WISHES TO REITERATE THAT NO RPT NO ADVISORS ARE TO BE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE PRIOR TO TWO WEEKS AFTER EMBASSY APPROVAL OF THE ADVISOR'S PROGRAM.

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